

APO0001743

Approval to undertake assessable prospecting operations

Rocklodge

16 May 2024

Application summary

Detail	Application
Reference	APO0001743
Date of approval	16 May 2024
Title	EL 9155 (1992)
Contact	[REDACTED]
Project name	Rocklodge
Project location	26.5 km south of Cooma
Activity type	Non-complying exploration activity

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Project

Project details

Application APO0001743 relates to the proposed Rocklodge at 26.5 km south of Cooma.

The application proposes the following characteristics.

Detail	Proposal
Activity description	<p>Stage 1: Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts Preparation of access tracks and drill pads disturbed Aboriginal artefacts, some of which were identified in two earlier heritage surveys. Additional artefacts were identified in a heritage survey conducted in February 2023. The Aboriginal artefacts on drill pads and access tracks will be returned to country as specified in an AHIP that was granted in a Section 90 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application lodged, granted 31 Jan 2024. The salvage will be conducted by Representative Aboriginal Parties and supervised by a qualified archaeologist. The salvage of heritage items is expected to take 3-4 days and is scheduled to commence in May 2024. Refer to RMP for details.</p> <p>Stage 2: Drill pad and access track rehabilitation Drill pads resulting from a Reverse Circulation drilling program conducted in December-March 2021 will be rehabilitated. All access tracks will be made stable but and the majority retained for fire fighting access at the request of the landholder. Refer to AIS. Two field assistants with a 4WD will tip the drill samples down the hole if possible. If this is not possible the samples will be loaded on the truck and removed from site to an appropriate disposal site. If the plastic bags are degraded it may be necessary to use a bobcat/loader and a small tip truck. Plastic bags will be separated from the drill chips and taken to a suitable disposal area. Drill pads will be scarified to promote regrowth. Rehabilitation will be monitored. Access tracks will be graded and made stable. Drill collars will be cut below ground, permanently capped and soil mounded over the top. Refer to RMP for additional details.</p> <p>Stage 3: Diamond Drilling Diamond drilling of 2-3 holes will be conducted to test under mineralisation intersected in previous RC drilling. Diamond hole will</p>

Detail	Proposal
	utilise the RC holes as precollars. Access tracks, drill pads and drill holes will be rehabilitated using the same method described above for RC holes
Earthworks or vegetation clearing	No additional land clearing is required because the exploration activities planned will utilise existing drill pad and tracks. Rehabilitation of the drill sites will be undertaken in accordance with the Department's Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation and the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria. Final rehabilitation must provide a stable long-term landform in those areas disturbed by exploration. Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities. 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted) 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. Prior to new drilling commencing, bunds will be constructed around the perimeter of the drill pads, on the downhill sides, to contain any excess groundwater that may be produced during drilling. All equipment, drilling materials, and any rubbish will be removed from site. Excess RC cuttings, collar and cyclone drill spoil will be emptied into the drill hole. Green sample bags will be removed off-site and disposed. Refer to RMP for full details.
Access to exploration activities	All three stages of the work planned will access the site via Maffra Road that heads southwest from Cooma. Existing exploration tracks and farm tracks lead to all the drill pads and work areas. Tracks and drill pads do not need to be extended or upgraded.
Ancillary activities	Water will be carted in and stored in the water truck for use during drilling or pumped from existing dams where approved to do so by landholders. Sucker trucks and waste disposal of drilling muds is being organised by the drilling company, but will be removed from site and disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations.
Anticipated start date	1 May 2024
Expected duration (weeks)	3
Expected rehabilitation completion date	1 July 2024
Proposed hours of operation	Standard Business hours (7AM to 6PM weekdays, 8AM to 1PM Saturdays, no work Sundays and public holidays)
On-site employee or contractor numbers	5

Exempted areas

The Rocklodge has not proposed prospecting in an exempted area.

State conservation areas

The Rocklodge has not proposed prospecting in a State Conservation Area.

Site description and existing environment

The project comprises the following existing land uses:

The project area is located on one property "Rocklodge", situated in the central eastern corner of the tenement. The project is in an area of open forest on a low hill surrounded by grass plains used for grazing. The landholder has indicated the area of open forest is used on an occasional basis to provide

shelter for sheep and cattle in periods of cold windy weather. The livestock seek shelter on the edge of the open forest and in particular in an area where there are deep natural gullies on the hillside that provide protection from the wind.

The project is located near the following sensitive receptors:

The nearest residence "Lofty Vale" is located 375m from project area 2 and "Rocklodge" is located about 1.5km from project area 1. Land Access Agreements have been negotiated with both the landholders of 'Rocklodge' and 'Lofty Vale'.

The project is located with the following soil types and properties:

The proposed rehabilitation works and drill sites are located on soils of Land and Soil Capability Class 5 and 7. These soils have only moderate limitations, are stable and there is no evidence of significant erosion. A few natural but stable gullies exist of creek lines on the low hill. There is no known occurrence of acid sulfate soils in the area of the proposed drilling areas.

The project has the following existing surface water sources in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

LPI's Digital Cadastral Data Base has been used to map all water sources (watercourses and dams) in the vicinity of the drilling program and to ensure that the proposed drillholes are located more than 40m from any water source. Bobundara Creek is the nearest named watercourse. The proposed drilling will not impact any surface water sources.

The project has the following existing groundwater sources that occur in the area that are likely to be affected by the activity:

There are no registered boreholes close to the proposed drill sites. The proposed diamond drillholes will be angled and drilled to a maximum depth of about 300m. Significant groundwater is unlikely to be intercepted during the drilling and it will not be extracted for the drilling operation.

The project is in an area with the following topography, vegetation cover type, density and condition:

The project is in open eucalypt forest surrounded by grass pasture used for grazing livestock. The landholder uses the area of natural vegetation within the exploration area for occasional rough grazing. This is primarily during period of cold and wet weather when the tree cover and natural gullies provide shelter for livestock. Existing farm tracks will be used where possible to access drill sites. No new tracks will be required to access drill sites within the project area.

The project will impact the following matters of national environmental significance:

There are no areas of national environmental significance within the project area.

The project is in an area with the following threatened species, ecological communities (or habitats):

A fauna survey was conducted at the project area. No threatened species or ecological communities were identified. Of those native animals recorded, three are listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act, being: • The Large Bent-winged Bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*) • Dusky Woodswallow (*Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus*) • Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*) A flora survey identified to Plant Community Types in the exploration area: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland and PCT3741 - Monaro Mountains Peppermint Shrub Forest PCT3341 is listed as a Critically endangered ecological community.

The project is in an area with the following historic cultural or natural heritage items:

No items of historic cultural or natural heritage will be impacted by the proposed drilling program.

The project is in an area with the following critical habitat/area of outstanding biodiversity value:

The project area has been mapped to determine plant habitats. There are two Plant Community Types (PCT) PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland PCT3741 - Monaro Mountains

Peppermint Shrub Forest PCT3341 is listed as a Critically endangered ecological community. No new clearing is planned in this area. Refer to Appendix: Lesryk Environmental Report - Biodiversity

The project is located in an area with the following location, type and distance to the nearest Aboriginal heritage sites:

An AHIMS search conducted in October 2022 identified 16 Aboriginal heritage sites on project area. Additional sites were identified by a survey conducted by Eco Logical Australia in 2016 but some of these sites were not added to the AHIMS sites register. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report by Cultural Heritage Management Australia (CHMA) dated 26th September 2023 identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts. The large number of artefacts found indicates the presence of a consistent and moderate dense distribution of artefacts throughout the landscape within the subject site. CHMA assessed the project area as being of moderate scientific significance. Refer to Appendix

Exploration activities

The following exploration activities have been approved.

Drill holes

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m ²)	Veg. Clearing (m ²)	Excavation s (m ³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
SRLRCD 001 EDH0014 885	DDH drill hole			8		200	422	r
SRLRC00 9 EDH0015 342	RC drill hole	150	150			50	422	r
SRLRC01 1 EDH0015 344	RC drill hole	150	150			70	422	r
SRLRC00 5 EDH0015 338	RC drill hole	150	150			102	422	r
SRLRC00 7 EDH0015 340	RC drill hole	150	150			48	422	r
SRLRCD 003 EDH0014 968	DDH drill hole			8		200	422	r
SRLRC00 1 EDH0015 334	RC drill hole	150	150			35	422	r
SRLRC00 3 EDH0015 336	RC drill hole	150	150			11	422	r

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m²)	Veg. Clearing (m²)	Excavation s (m³)	Produced water (ml)	Depth (m)	Block number	Unit letters
SRLRC01 2 EDH0015 366	RC drill hole	150	150			64	422	r
SRLRC00 6 EDH0015 339	RC drill hole	150	150			49	422	r
SRLRC00 8 EDH0015 341	RC drill hole	150	150			50	422	r
SRLRC01 0 EDH0015 343	RC drill hole	150	150			57	422	r
SRLRC00 4 EDH0015 368	RC drill hole	150	150			41	422	r
SRLRC01 3 EDH0015 367	RC drill hole	150	150			65	422	r
SRLRCD 002 EDH0014 886	DDH drill hole			8		200	422	r
SRLRC00 2 EDH0015 335	RC drill hole	150	150			35	422	r

Other exploration activities

Id/ Regulator no.	Type	Surface disturbance (m²)	Veg. Clearing (m²)	Excavations (m³)	Produced water (ml)	Block number	Unit letters
Track 3 EA0005264	Access tracks	425	425			420	r
Track 1 EA0005262	Access tracks	150	150			420	r
Track 2 EA0005263	Access tracks	359	360			420	r

Impact management

The project includes the following measures to manage surface water impacts:

LPI's Digital Cadastral Data Base has been used to map all water sources (watercourses and dams) in the vicinity of the drilling program and to ensure that the proposed drillholes are located more than 40m from any water source. Bobundara Creek is the nearest named watercourse. All drillholes will be located more than 40m from any water source including watercourses and dams. The proposed drilling will not adversely impact any surface water sources and no ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water will be carted to the site and stored in the water truck for use during drilling activities or pumped from existing dams. Used drilling water with cuttings will be recycled with the cuttings settling in a sump. Where possible above ground sumps will be used but lined in-ground sumps may be required. Waste water will be removed by a waste disposal trucks and disposed of in an approved facility if the sum if required.

The project includes the following measures to manage groundwater impacts:

There are no registered boreholes close to the proposed drill sites. It is not expected that significant groundwater will be intercepted during drilling. Any intercepted groundwater and liquid wastes will be managed in accordance with the Exploration Code of Practice: Produced Water Management, Storage and Transfer. If groundwater is intercepted during drilling, it will be contained at site. Any additional flow of groundwater will be managed with the creation of small bunds to direct and contain any flows, these could include hay bales and temporary silt-stop fencing. This drainage will be managed by the driller and drilling supervisor and will be maintained using hand held equipment to ensure minimal surface disturbance, yet providing effective control of any water that may be encountered. Water and material will be removed by a contractor with slurry pump capability.

The project includes the following measures to manage waste and excess materials:

The proposed activities will produce minimal waste. All general waste will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately following drill hole completion and disposed of at the local land-fill site. Large tarpaulins or plastic will be placed under drill equipment in order to catch any hydrocarbon or grease leakage if required. These will be disposed of, off site. Material from any hydrocarbon spill-kit used will be disposed off site in heavy-duty bags. Any contaminated soil will be shoveled into the bags for disposal at the local land-fill site.

The project includes the following measures regarding the handling, use, storage and transportation of any chemicals and hydrocarbons:

The drilling will require hole conditioning fluids, including AMC Rod Grease. Biodegradable lubricants and cutting oils. All these conditioning fluids are biodegradable. No dangerous chemicals will be present on site. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as work method statements as part of the contractor's WH&S policy for the use of these chemicals

The project includes the following measures of how noise impacts will be managed to minimise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors:

The nearest residences are "Lofty Vale" and "Rocklodge", which is located about 1.5km from the project area. Land Access Agreements have been negotiated with both the landholders of 'Rocklodge' and 'Lofty Vale'. Rehabilitation works and drilling will be limited to daylight hours, and given the relatively short duration of the programs, is not expected to adversely impact on these residences. There are no other sensitive receptors close to project area. Earplugs will be used at all times by the drillers, field staff and visitors to site to prevent hearing damage as per the contractors Drilling Health and Safety Procedures.

The project includes the following measures to manage air quality impacts:

Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks as a part of WHS requirements for the drilling program. Minor dust is expected as a part of the rehabilitation and drilling process, but will only be of a relatively short duration. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary.

Sensitivity of the land to be disturbed

Question	Yes/no
Conservation areas	
Land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land acquired by the Minister under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Land subject to a 'conservation agreement' under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and/or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land declared as an aquatic reserve under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared as a marine park under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land within State Forests set aside under the <i>Forestry Act 2012</i> for conservation values, including Flora Reserves or Special Management (and other) Zones?	No
Land reserved or dedicated under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1989/Crown Lands Management Act 2016</i> (as applicable) for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological formations or other environmental protection purposes?	No
Land identified as wilderness or declared a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Biobanking agreement (established under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>) or a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement established under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to a Wildlife Refuge agreement under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land subject to existing conservation agreements on private land under repealed legislation that continue to have effect (e.g., trust agreements under <i>Native Conservation Trust Act 2001</i> , Property vegetation plans under <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> , Registered property agreements under <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>)?	No
Drinking water catchment protection areas	
Land declared to be a 'controlled area' or a 'special area' under the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> ?	No
Land declared to be a 'special area' under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> or <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> ?	No
Sensitive areas	
Land declared as area of outstanding biodiversity value under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or critical habitat under Part 7A of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> ?	No
Wetlands of international significance listed under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention?	No
Land designated as a nationally important wetland in the Directory of Important Wetlands?	No
Coastal wetlands mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Littoral rainforests mapped under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> ?	No
Coastal zone as defined in the <i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i> ?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument as being of biodiversity/conservation significance or zoned for environmental conservation, protection and/or management?	Yes
Waterfront land defined under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> ?	Yes
Land with a slope greater than 18 degrees measured from the horizontal?	No

Question	Yes/no
Land with potential for soil and water contamination	
Land mapped as Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS) or Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS) on the Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Maps for NSW?	No
Aboriginal protection areas	
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of Aboriginal cultural significance?	No
Land declared as an Aboriginal place under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Historic or natural heritage protection areas	
Land listed on the World Heritage List, National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List?	No
Land, places, buildings or structures listed on the NSW State Heritage Register?	No
Land identified in an environmental planning instrument (such as a State Environmental Planning Policy or Local Environment Plan) as being of heritage significance or a heritage conservation area?	No
Critical industry clusters	
Land identified as Critical Industry Cluster under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> ?	No
Community land	
Public land classified as community land under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> ?	No
Other areas	
Land identified on the authority (e.g., exploration licence or assessment lease) as environmentally sensitive land?	No
Ecology	
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened species or their habitats?	No
Will the activity have a significant effect on threatened ecological communities or their habitats?	No
Will vegetation be removed as part of access track upgrade works in waterfront land?	No
Aboriginal and European heritage	
Will the activity harm Aboriginal objects as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> ?	No
Will the activity damage any listed heritage items?	No

Attachment 1 – Statement of commitments

Item	Commitment
Activity type	<p>Exploration activity comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 diamond drill holes • 13 reverse circulation drill holes • 0 other drill holes • 0 cubic metres of bulk sampling • 934 square metres of new access tracks • 0 lines of seismic testing • 0 square metres of air core drilling • 0 square metres of other drilling
Activity location	26.5 km south of Cooma, within EL 9155 (1992).
Activity scope (including any ancillary activities)	<p>Stage 1: Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts Preparation of access tracks and drill pads disturbed Aboriginal artefacts, some of which were identified in two earlier heritage surveys. Additional artefacts were identified in a heritage survey conducted in February 2023. The Aboriginal artefacts on drill pads and access tracks will be returned to country as specified in an AHIP that was granted in a Section 90 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application lodged, granted 31 Jan 2024. The salvage will be conducted by Representative Aboriginal Parties and supervised by a qualified archaeologist. The salvage of heritage items is expected to take 3-4 days and is scheduled to commence in May 2024. Refer to RMP for details.</p> <p>Stage 2: Drill pad and access track rehabilitation Drill pads resulting from a Reverse Circulation drilling program conducted in December-March 2021 will be rehabilitated. All access tracks will be made stable but and the majority retained for fire fighting access at the request of the landholder. Refer to AIS. Two field assistants with a 4WD will tip the drill samples down the hole if possible. If this is not possible the samples will be loaded on the truck and removed from site to an appropriate disposal site. If the plastic bags are degraded it may be necessary to use a bobcat/loader and a small tip truck. Plastic bags will be separated from the drill chips and taken to a suitable disposal area. Drill pads will be scarified to promote regrowth. Rehabilitation will be monitored. Access tracks will be graded and made stable. Drill collars will be cut below ground, permanently capped and soil mounded over the top. Refer to RMP for additional details.</p> <p>Stage 3: Diamond Drilling Diamond drilling of 2-3 holes will be conducted to test under mineralisation intersected in previous RC drilling. Diamond hole will utilise the RC holes as precollars. Access tracks, drill pads and drill holes will be rehabilitated using the same method described above for RC holes</p> <p>Water will be carted in and stored in the water truck for use during drilling or pumped from existing dams where approved to do so by landholders. Sucker trucks and waste disposal of drilling muds is being organised by the drilling company, but will be removed from site and disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations.</p>
Hours of operation	Standard Business hours (7AM to 6PM weekdays, 8AM to 1PM Saturdays, no work Sundays and public holidays)
Expected duration (weeks)	3
Anticipated start date	1 May 2024
Expected rehabilitation completion date	Estimated 1 July 2024

Item	Commitment
Maximum area of disturbance	2,884 square metres
Agricultural impact	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with Appendix 11 Level 1 AIS Rocklodge.pdf (708345 bytes)
Air quality	Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks as a part of WHS requirements for the drilling program. Minor dust is expected as a part of the rehabilitation and drilling process, but will only be of a relatively short duration. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary.
Protection of water sources	<p>LPI's Digital Cadastral Data Base has been used to map all water sources (watercourses and dams) in the vicinity of the drilling program and to ensure that the proposed drillholes are located more than 40m from any water source. Bobundara Creek is the nearest named watercourse. All drillholes will be located more than 40m from any water source including watercourses and dams. The proposed drilling will not adversely impact any surface water sources and no ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water will be carted to the site and stored in the water truck for use during drilling activities or pumped from existing dams. Used drilling water with cuttings will be recycled with the cuttings settling in a sump. Where possible above ground sumps will be used but lined in-ground sumps may be required. Waste water will be removed by a waste disposal trucks and disposed of in an approved facility if the sum if required.</p> <p>There are no registered boreholes close to the proposed drill sites. It is not expected that significant groundwater will be intercepted during drilling. Any intercepted groundwater and liquid wastes will be managed in accordance with the Exploration Code of Practice: Produced Water Management, Storage and Transfer. If groundwater is intercepted during drilling, it will be contained at site. Any additional flow of groundwater will be managed with the creation of small bunds to direct and contain any flows, these could include hay bales and temporary silt-stop fencing. This drainage will be managed by the driller and drilling supervisor and will be maintained using hand held equipment to ensure minimal surface disturbance, yet providing effective control of any water that may be encountered. Water and material will be removed by a contractor with slurry pump capability.</p>
Soil and land stability	<p>Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling.</p> <p>The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface.</p> <p>In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and the majority retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Refer to the figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.</p> <p>Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off.</p>
Noise and vibration	The nearest residences are "Lofty Vale" and "Rocklodge", which is located about 1.5km from the project area. Land Access Agreements have been negotiated with both the landholders of 'Rocklodge' and 'Lofty Vale'. Rehabilitation works and drilling will be limited to daylight hours, and given the relatively short duration of the programs, is not expected to adversely impact

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	on these residences. There are no other sensitive receptors close to project area. Earplugs will be used at all times by the drillers, field staff and visitors to site to prevent hearing damage as per the contractors Drilling Health and Safety Procedures.
Coastal processes and hazards	Not applicable
Hazardous substances or chemicals	The drilling will require hole conditioning fluids, including AMC Rod Grease. Biodegradable lubricants and cutting oils. All these conditioning fluids are biodegradable. No dangerous chemicals will be present on site. An approved spill kit/oil matting will be on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles. The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as work method statements as part of the contractor's WH&S policy for the use of these chemicals
Wastes and emissions	The proposed activities will produce minimal waste. All general waste will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately following drill hole completion and disposed of at the local land-fill site. Large tarpaulins or plastic will be placed under drill equipment in order to catch any hydrocarbon or grease leakage if required. These will be disposed of, off site. Material from any hydrocarbon spill-kit used will be disposed off site in heavy-duty bags. Any contaminated soil will be shoveled into the bags for disposal at the local land-fill site.
Vegetation	<p>Any topsoil or vegetative material removed during the clearing process was stockpiled and will be used for rehabilitation.</p> <p>The constructed drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by re-spreading the soil / grass sward / cleared vegetation back over the levelled ground to form a stable surface.</p> <p>In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and the majority retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired.</p> <p>Refer to the figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.</p> <p>At the completion of exploration rehabilitation, the land will be left to naturally regenerate. If monitoring shows natural revegetation to be ineffective then seeding with local pasture species and/or weed control measures will be undertaken.</p>
Threatened fauna and flora species	<p>Where possible, topsoil and grass sward / vegetation at each drill site will be replaced following drilling. All drill sites are located more than 40m from any water course. The work program will be completed as soon as possible mitigating time of disturbance to any fauna in the area.</p> <p>Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:

Item	Commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north- west side). - monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. - Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). - A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: - These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. - Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. - To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. - Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. - A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. - Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey should be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.
Areas of outstanding biodiversity value/critical habitat	
Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community	<p>No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas.</p> <p>Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have

Item	Commitment
	<p>been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north- west side). - monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. - Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). - A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: - These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. - To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. - Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. - A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. - Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey should be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.
<p>Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community</p>	<p>No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas.</p> <p>Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have

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<p>Key threatening processes</p>	<p>Vehicles will be cleaned before use on site and regularly inspected before they enter and after they leave the project areas to ensure that there is no adhering weed matter. This will mitigate the spread of any noxious weeds either to or from the project areas.</p> <p>Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have

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	<p>been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north- west side). - monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years. - Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees). - A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced. - To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration. - Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted. - A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site. - Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey should be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs). - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.
Barriers to movement of fauna	<p>All drill pads will be rehabilitated. The majority of the access tracks will be retained at the Landholders request to provide access for fire fighting. Refer to figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.</p>
Ecological and biosecurity impacts	<p>Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks.</p> <p>Catalina has a procedure to prevent the spread of weeds.</p> <p>All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.</p>

Item	Commitment
Community resources	All guidelines and procedures will be followed.
Natural resources	<p>At the completion of drilling, the drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated to form a stable, non-eroding surface.</p> <p>The access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable and not prone to erosion. Cor logs/mats will be used to control erosion as required.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the drill sites will be undertaken in accordance with the Department's Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, July 2015) and the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021.</p> <p>Final rehabilitation will provide for a stable long-term landform in those areas disturbed by exploration.</p> <p>Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads. 2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted). 3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing. 4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation. 5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary. <p>All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.</p> <p>All drill pads will experience varying degrees of compaction by the heavy equipment used during drilling activities. Topsoil erosion by rainfall and groundwater flows during drilling is possible.</p> <p>In accordance with the Code of Practice, compacted drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated to form a stable, non-eroding surface. Any stored topsoils will be placed back over the ripped drill pad using available machinery.</p>
Social impacts	All guidelines and procedures will be followed.
Economic impacts	Compensation will be paid in a timely manner to ensure a good relationship is maintained between explorer and landholder.
Heritage impacts	Not applicable
Aesthetic impacts	Not applicable

Item	Commitment
Aboriginal cultural heritage	Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties following grant of an AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences.
Land use impacts	Not applicable
Transportation impacts	The limited number of vehicles involved in the rehabilitation and drilling program will not cause significant impact to the local transport system. Site personnel will mobilise to site in light vehicles in the morning and then return at the end of the 12 hour shift over a 2-3 week period. Vehicle movements will be limited to only that necessary.
Matters of national environmental significance	Not applicable
Cumulative impacts	Not applicable
Rehabilitation commitments	The activity will be undertaken in accordance with the rehabilitation objectives and targets provided for this project.
Risk assessments	The titleholder must monitor the risks associated with activities and, if the risk associated with an activity changes, implement revised environmental management controls.
Incident management	The NSW Resources Regulator will be notified of all incidents in accordance with the requirements of EL 9155 (1992).
Reporting	Reporting to the NSW Resources Regulator and Mining, Exploration and Geoscience – Department of Regional NSW will be in accordance with the legislation and conditions of EL 9155 (1992).
Codes of Practice	Rocklodge will be operated in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management • Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation • Exploration Code of Practice: Produced Water Management, Storage and Transfer
Other (as applicable)	1. No additional terms specified.

Attachment 2 – Definitions

To search for NSW legislation, visit www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. Commonwealth legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.au.

Word	Definition
Aboriginal object	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Aboriginal place	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Acid Sulfate Soils	Sediments and soils containing iron sulfides which, when exposed to oxygen, generate sulfuric acid. Acid sulfate soils include actual acid sulfate soils (AASS) or potential acid sulfate soils (PASS).
Activity	Any activity carried out in connection with exploration, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the use of land • means of accessing land • the carrying out of a work.
Activity approval	An approval to carry out assessable prospecting operations granted under the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Actual Acid Sulfate Soils (AASS)	Sediments and soils containing highly acidic soil horizons or layers resulting from the aeration of sediments and soils that are rich in iron sulfides, primarily sulphide.
Applicant	In relation to an exploration activity, the person proposing to carry out the exploration activity.
Aquatic reserve	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> .
Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs)	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> . Note: Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Assessable prospecting operation	Any prospecting operation that is not exempt development within the meaning of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Clearing of vegetation	Any one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cutting down, felling, thinning, lopping, logging or removing vegetation, or • killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning vegetation.
Complying exploration activities (CEA)	Exploration activities that are considered unlikely to significantly affect the environment as set out in <i>Exploration guideline: Application and assessment process for exploration activities</i> .
Critical habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> . Areas of declared critical habitat under the now repealed <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> have become Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBVs) under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Drill hole	A hole made by drilling or boring, but excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sampling and coring using handheld equipment, • petroleum wells.
Drilling	The perforation of the earth's surface crust by mechanical means to form a hole, whether the hole caused by the perforation is vertical, inclined or horizontal, and includes all operations for preventing collapse of the sides of

Word	Definition
	such hole or for preventing it from being filled with extraneous materials including water
Environment	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Environmentally sensitive area of State significance	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Excavation	The removal of the surface layer to a depth greater than 500 mm from the natural surface level.
Exempt development	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Exploration	Has the same meaning as it has in <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021</i> .
Fauna	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Groundwater	Water that occurs beneath the ground surface in the saturated zone.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Harm	<p>In relation to matters of national environmental significance, has the same meaning as 'significant impact' as provided by the 'Significant Impact Guidelines' used to determine whether assessment and approval is required under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>In relation to the environment, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>In relation to threatened species or ecological communities, has the same meaning as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'harm an animal' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'pick a native plant' in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • 'harm' in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>. <p>In relation to an aquifer or waterfront land, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>.</p> <p>In relation to Aboriginal places or Aboriginal objects has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>In relation to items of heritage significance, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>In relation to protected marine vegetation, has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</p>
Items of heritage significance	<p>Means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any heritage items listed in one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the Commonwealth Heritage List — the World Heritage List — the National Heritage List — the State Heritage Register — an Environmental Planning Instrument • any relic (being any deposit, object or material evidence which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which is 50 or more years old), or

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within State Conservation Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — items that are listed on the DECC Historic Heritage Information Management System, or — any deposit, object or material evidence relating to the settlement or occupation of New South Wales or a part of New South Wales (not being Aboriginal settlement or occupation) if the deposit, object or material evidence is more than 25 years old at the date of the interference or removal.
Land	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sea or an arm of the sea • a bay, inlet, lagoon, lake or body of water, whether inland or not and whether tidal or non-tidal • a river, stream or watercourse, whether tidal or non-tidal, and • a building erected on the land
Marine vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Matters of national environmental significance	'Matters of national environmental significance' protected under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Minister	The Minister administering the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> .
Potential acid sulphate soils (PASS)	Sediments and soils that contain iron sulfides or sulfidic material which have not been exposed to air and oxidised
Produced water	Any form of groundwater that is actively extracted from a borehole or excavation, excluding incidental groundwater mixed with drilling fluids.
Rehabilitation	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Mining Act 1992 / Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Seismic survey	The use of shock waves (generated in the ground using either small explosive charges detonated below the surface, hand-held mechanical hammers or vehicle-mounted hammers) and an array of geophones, which are connected to measuring instruments, to differentiate the geophysical properties of the subsurface of the earth.
Sensitive receiver	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dwellings • libraries • educational and research institutions (including schools, colleges and universities) • childcare centres • kindergartens • hospitals, surgeries and other medical institutions • places of worship • milking sheds and holding yards associated with dairies • animal boarding or training establishments • aquaculture

Word	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> intensive livestock agriculture
Site	The land on which an activity is located.
State Conservation Area	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Surface disturbance	Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disturbance or exposure of the soil or surface rock layer, or degradation or deterioration in any manner of the physical surface of land.
Terms	In relation to activity approvals, the terms imposed by the decision-maker on the grant of an activity approval.
Threatened species or ecological communities	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> or <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant).
Title	An authority under the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> / a title under the <i>Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991</i> – as relevant.
Titleholder	A person or company to whom a title has been issued.
Track	All unsealed routes that will be traversed multiple times, but does not include single pass (ingress and egress) routes or seismic shot and receiver lines.
Waste	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> .
Water source	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Water land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Waterfront land	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> .
Wetlands	Has the same meaning as it has in the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .
Wilderness	Lands identified as wilderness under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> .
Wilderness area	Lands (including subterranean lands) declared to be a wilderness area under the <i>Wilderness Act 1987</i> or the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .

Attachment 3 – Review of environmental factors

Air impacts

Provide a brief description of likely impacts to air quality, including the distance to, and impacts on, nearby sensitive receivers.

Localised dust from vehicle movements. Exhaust fumes from the running of the earthmoving equipment, drill rig and support vehicles will be dispersed quickly. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact landholders.

What is the activity's likely impact due to generation of greenhouse gases emissions or release of chemicals which affect the ozone layer or produce photo-chemical smog?

Negligible

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Vehicles will be driven at no more than 50 km/hr on local dirt roads and access tracks. Minor dust is expected as a part of drilling and rehabilitation process. It is not expected that the dust will have an impact on the environment nor will it impact surrounding landholders. The drilling will not release any gasses and/or vapours. Staff will have access to dust masks and appropriate PPE as necessary. Visitors to the site will not be allowed within 25m of the rig

Water impacts

Provide a brief description of the likely impacts to water quality and/quantity.

The proposed rehabilitation work and drilling program will not adversely impact any watercourses or other surface water sources, including farm dams.

The drilling program will not extract or use any surface water. Given the short duration of drilling the proposed drilling program will have negligible adverse impact on surface water in the project areas.

What is the activity's impact due to the storage of water?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact to natural water bodies, wetlands or runoff patterns?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to aquifer interference, including changes to inter-aquifer connectivity?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to changes to flooding or tidal regimes?

Negligible

What are the impacts from any hydraulic fracturing (well stimulation), including through gas and fluid migration?

Nil/Not applicable

What is the activity's impact due to changes in surface or groundwater quality and quantity?

Negligible

What is the likely level of any water impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Planned drilling will not require additional clearing and will be located 40m away from the top bank of any water source including watercourses and dams.

Water impacts

Drilling traverses will not cross / traverse over any watercourses. Any wetland, swamps or other potential habitat areas will also be avoided. No surface water or ground water will be extracted for the drilling program. Water required for diamond drilling will be carted using the drill contractor's water truck.

Any groundwater intersected during the drilling process will be contained in above or below ground sumps.

Groundwater will be collected via pumps and IBC containers at the drill collar, for later disposal. In the event that large quantities of groundwater are produced drill sumps may be required.

Prior to drilling commencing, bunds will be constructed around the perimeter of the drill pads, on the downhill sides, to contain any excess ground water that may be produced during drilling.

Soil and stability impacts

Provide a brief description of the likely impacts to soil quality or land stability.

Minor erosion on access tracks and drilling pads is possible. No additional tracks or drill pads will be cleared.

What is the activity's impact on the degradation of soil quality including contamination, salinisation or acidification?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact on land with high agricultural capability?

Nil/Not applicable

What is the activity's impact due to loss of soil from wind or water erosion?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to the loss of structural integrity of the soil?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to increased land instability with high risks from landslides or subsidence?

Negligible

What is the activity's impact due to any induced seismicity or ground movements associated with fracture stimulation or injection or extraction of groundwater?

Negligible

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Only minor surface disturbance is required to facilitate drilling.

The rehabilitation and drilling programs will not be undertaken during wet conditions. The drilling rig will be on site for about 2 weeks, which will not cause significant impact on the soil. Drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by respreading the soil / grass sward / vegetation back over the levelled surface to form a stable surface.

In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and the majority retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Refer to the figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.

Where access tracks have been formed on steeper areas, the battered slopes on either side of the track may be stabilised with jute mesh

Soil and stability impacts

and silt (Coir) logs if required to control / slow-down surface water run-off.

Noise and vibration impacts

Provide a brief description of the likely noise and/or vibration impacts.

Noise and vibration will be limited to access tracks and drill pads in the work area only and will not significantly impact surrounding landholders or residences. There are no nearby sensitive receptors.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Vehicle speeds will be limited to a maximum of 50km/hr.

Diamond drilling is proposed to be 12 hours but may be up to 24 hours, but only with landholder permission. The times of operation will be discussed with the closest sensitive receptor before operations commence.

Hours of operation will be in strict accordance with landholder requirements.

Coastal locations and processes

Provide a brief description of likely impacts on coastal environments, coastal processes and coastal hazards.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Hazardous substances and chemicals

Provide a brief description of likely impacts associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals.

Use of fuel and oil in drill rig, earthmoving equipment and support vehicles may potentially result in localised impact if spillage occurs.

What is the likely level of the impact associated with the use, generation, storage or transport of hazardous substances or chemicals?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Diesel stored only in truck tanks. All chemicals and hydrocarbons will be stored and transported in sealed containers or storage boxes in the vehicles.

All chemicals used are biodegradable and approved for drilling. No dangerous chemicals will be used on site.

Appropriate chemical spill kits / oil matting will be available on site for use with hydrocarbons such as diesel or oil spills and any waste will be disposed of in the nearest appropriate waste facility.

The drilling contractor will have safety data sheets for all chemicals and hydrocarbons used on site, as well as safe work method statements as part of the contractor's OH&S policy for the use of these chemicals.

Wastes and emissions

Provide a brief description of likely impacts to the environment from the generation or disposal of gaseous, liquid or solid wastes or emissions.

Reverse circulation drilling fines will be collected and then used to backfill the holes if possible or removed from site. Drilling cuttings and waste water from the diamond drilling are contained in above ground or inground sumps. Fugitive emissions from diesel powered equipment will be negligible and of short duration.

Provide a brief description of likely impacts on areas sensitive to this type of impact.

Any hydrocarbon or groundwater spills related to the rehabilitation or drilling will be localised and will be rectified immediately with negligible impact on sensitive areas.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

All equipment, drilling materials, and any rubbish will be removed from site.

Excess RC cuttings, collar and cyclone drill spoil will be emptied into the drill hole. Green sample bags will be removed off-site and disposed of at the local waste facility. PVC at drill collars (where used) will be cut off below ground level, capped (with a non-degradable or concrete plug) and backfilled at a later date after completion of any down-hole geophysical surveys. Holes awaiting geophysical survey(s) will be capped in the interim.

Standard exhaust systems are required for all diesel powered equipment.

All general waste, residues and plastic will be contained in large heavy-duty bags and removed from site immediately and disposed of at the local land-fill site.

Vegetation

Provide a brief description of any vegetation clearing or modification and the likely impacts to the environment.

The rehabilitation works and drill sites have been inspected and access routes determined in consultation with landholders to minimise surface disturbance. Access to the drill sites will be via existing farm and exploration tracks. The diamond holes will be sited on existing drill pads.

The critically endangered Plant Community Type PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland that exists in part of the project area will not be impacted because no additional clearing is required.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Any topsoil or vegetative material removed during the clearing process was stockpiled and will be used for rehabilitation.

The constructed drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated by re-spreading the soil / grass sward / cleared vegetation back over the levelled ground to form a stable surface.

In accordance with the specific requirements of landholders, all access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable / non-eroding and the majority retained for future use as farm tracks and as fire trails. Any damage to existing access tracks will be repaired.

Refer to the figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.

At the completion of exploration rehabilitation, the land will be left to naturally regenerate. If monitoring shows natural revegetation to be ineffective then seeding with local pasture species and/or weed control measures will be undertaken.

Threatened species

Provide a brief description of any likely impacts to threatened fauna and flora species.

The proposed rehabilitation works and drilling program will not impact any potential habitat of vulnerable species that may use the area because no additional clearing is required. The drilling program will not impact any water courses and will therefore not impact threatened aquatic species.

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Where possible, topsoil and grass sward / vegetation at each drill site will be replaced following drilling. All drill sites are located more than 40m from any water course. The work program will be completed as soon as possible mitigating time of disturbance to any fauna in the area.

Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:

- Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:
 - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side).
 - monitored at biannual intervals for a period of three years.
 - Replaced or repaired if damaged or occupied by exotic species (such as European Bees).
 - A minimum of 10 purpose-built habitat boxes suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent microbats and small arboreal mammals/birds should be erected within those portions of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future:
 - These boxes should be included in the three-year monitored period.
 - Any boxes damaged or occupied by exotic species should be repaired or replaced.
 - To protect the Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, this portion of the site should be excluded from any further clearing and exploration.
 - Locally occurring native plant species typical of the two PCTs found on site should be used in revegetation of the site that would ensure from any remediation plan prepared in relation to the clearing and disturbance associated with the exploration drilling hole sites and/or future works should the suspension notice be lifted.
 - A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site.
 - Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey should be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing) within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs).
 - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.

Area of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV) / Critical habitat

Provide a brief description of any likely impacts to AOBV/critical habitat.

Area of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV) / Critical habitat

The project area covers two Plant Community Types: PCT3341 - Monaro-Gourock Frost Hollow Grassy Woodland

PCT3741 - Monaro Mountains Peppermint Shrub Forest. PCT3341 is listed as a Critically endangered ecological community. There will be no impact on the PCT because there will be no additional clearing.

What is the likely level of the impacts?**Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.****Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community**

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community? Select as relevant:

N/A

Provide a brief description of any impacts.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas.

Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:

- Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:
 - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side).
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 - A weed management plan should be prepared to control and prevent further spread of Serrated Tussock, a weed of national significance and a major threat to natural temperate grassland and the BC Act listed Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland CEEC, which is represented on site.
 - Should further exploration works be undertaken that requires new clearing, a pre-clearing survey should be undertaken by an ecologist or similar qualified person to determine the

Endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community

location/alignment of any tracks/mature trees (particular those that are hollow bearing)

within the required clearing and to salvage any fauna habitats if necessary (e.g. hollow limbs).

- The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.

Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community

Is the activity likely to have an adverse effect on the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community (including protected aquatic species)? Select as relevant:

N/A

Describe the impacts.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of the impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

No additional clearing is required for the proposed works. Inductions and procedures will clearly state that all works must be conducted on existing cleared areas.

Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:

- Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:
 - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north-west side).
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 - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity

Habitat of a threatened species or ecological community

being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.

Key threatening process

Provide a brief description of whether the activity will constitute, or form part of, a key threatening process - or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.

The drilling will be undertaken over a relatively small area. If weeds are present the dispersal due to vehicle movements within the small area will be minimal.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Vehicles will be cleaned before use on site and regularly inspected before they enter and after they leave the project areas to ensure that there is no adhering weed matter. This will mitigate the spread of any noxious weeds either to or from the project areas.

Based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, as identified in Part 193 Division 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, the following recommendations provided by Lesryk will be implemented as corrective measures:

- Suitable hollow-bearing limbs/branches that are present within the felled trees that have been stockpiled adjacent to the exploration pads should be collected and salvaged. These should be:
 - modified (if needed) to be suitable for occupation by hollow-dependent native fauna erected within those part of the mining lease area that are not to be cleared in the future. These should be placed in those trees present at a height of 4 m to 5 m and on the side of the plant that is not exposed to storm events (generally the north to north- west side).
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 - The value of the existing mine shaft for cave-dependent microbats, particularly as an overwintering hibernation roosting site, should be determined prior to any exploration activity being conducted in, or close to, the shaft entrance.

Barriers to movement of fauna

Provide a brief description regarding the potential of the activity to endanger, displace or disturb fauna or create a barrier to their movement.

Access tracks may generate a minor and temporary barrier to some fauna.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

All drill pads will be rehabilitated. The majority of the access tracks will be retained at the Landholders request to provide access for fire fighting. Refer to figure in AIS for tracks to be retained or rehabilitated.

Ecological and biosecurity impacts

Is the activity likely to have any adverse ecological or biosecurity impacts? Select as relevant:

N/A

Provide a brief description of any impacts.

Very low possibility of fire starting in dry grass.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Access to the site and use of on site access tracks and drill pads will be under the direction of the landholder and precautions will be taken to ensure that vehicular movements are restricted to cleared or existing tracks.

Catalina has a procedure to prevent the spread of weeds.

All vehicles will be equipped with UHF radio/mobile, fire extinguishers and a minimum of 15L of water.

Community resources

Describe whether the activity is likely to degrade or significantly increase the demand for services and infrastructure resources.

Not applicable

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in any diversion of resources to the detriment of other communities or natural systems.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of the impact?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

All guidelines and procedures will be followed.

Natural resources

Describe any likely impacts that would disrupt, deplete or destroy natural resources.

Rehabilitation works and drilling will cause temporary minor disturbance of the ground surface

Natural resources

Describe whether the activity is likely to disrupt existing activities which rely upon natural resources, including forestry, farming or extractive industries (or will reduce options for future activities).

Negligible impact

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in the degradation of any area reserved for conservation purposes.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of the impact?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

At the completion of drilling, the drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated to form a stable, non-eroding surface.

The access tracks will be graded if required to ensure that they are stable and not prone to erosion. Cor logs/mats will be used to control erosion as required.

Rehabilitation of the drill sites will be undertaken in accordance with the Department's Exploration Code of Practice – Rehabilitation (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, July 2015) and the Rehabilitation Objectives & Completion Criteria submitted in September 2021.

Final rehabilitation will provide for a stable long-term landform in those areas disturbed by exploration.

Rehabilitation will involve the following component activities.

1. Re-shaping the drill pads to remove their geometric shape and creating slopes comparable with those natural slopes around the pads.
2. Replacing topsoil set aside during pad construction onto the final landform. (noting that topsoil was not set aside, what alternative measures will be adopted).
3. Installation of any required surface water management structures to protect the disturbed area, including silt-stop fencing.
4. Spreading of any cleared vegetation.
5. Revegetation of the entire disturbed area with a native or pasture seed mix, if necessary.

All revegetated areas will be inspected at least every 6 months for a period of up to 2 years and following any substantial storm events, high risk sites would be targeted to identify whether there is a need for any maintenance activities.

All drill pads will experience varying degrees of compaction by the heavy equipment used during drilling activities. Topsoil erosion by rainfall and groundwater flows during drilling is possible.

In accordance with the Code of Practice, compacted drill pads will be ripped / re-shaped and rehabilitated to form a stable, non-eroding surface. Any stored topsoils will be placed back over the ripped drill pad using available machinery.

Social impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in a change to the demographic structure of the community, including changes to the workforce or industry structure of the area/region.

Not applicable

Describe whether the activity is likely to have an environmental impact that may cause substantial change or disruption to the community, including loss of facilities, reduced links to other communities or loss of community identity.

Not applicable

Describe whether the activity is likely to result in some individuals or communities being significantly disadvantaged, including a change in the level of demand for community resources (e.g. community facilities / services, and labour force).

Not applicable

Describe whether the activity likely to result in any impacts on the health, safety, privacy or welfare of individuals or communities because of factors such as pollution, odour, noise, vibration, lighting, visual impacts, etc.

Negligible

Describe if the activity is likely to have any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any social impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

All guidelines and procedures will be followed.

Economic impacts

Provide a brief description of any likely economic impacts.

Landholder will receive compensation payment in accordance with the land access agreement.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Compensation will be paid in a timely manner to ensure a good relationship is maintained between explorer and landholder.

Heritage impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to cause impacts on localities, places, landscapes, buildings or archaeological relics of heritage significance.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of the impact?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Aesthetic impacts

Describe whether the activity is likely to cause impacts on the visual or scenic landscape, including any lighting, venting or flaring of gas.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Cultural impacts

Describe the likely impacts associated with any disturbance of the ground surface or any culturally modified trees.

An AHIMS search has shown that 16 Aboriginal heritage sites are recorded within the project area.

A recent survey by CHMA identified an additional 107 Aboriginal artefacts.

The RC drilling program in late 2021 impact some of the 16 recorded sites.

Describe whether the activity will affect known Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places.

An AHIP permit has been granted to allow salvage of Aboriginal artefacts that were disturbed during the 2021 RC drilling program ie access tracks and drill pads. The proposed diamond drilling will be on existing access tracks and pads where the artefacts have been removed.

Describe whether the activity is located in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.

The project area is on a small hill adjacent to the Jinny Brother Creek. Areas along the creek may have been used for hunting with the adjacent ridge a possible campsite. This explains the concentration of Aboriginal artefacts that were accumulated over a long period.

Describe whether the activity will affect areas where native title exists or land subject to native title claims, indigenous land use agreements or joint management agreements.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any cultural impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Aboriginal artefacts that are recorded in the AHIMS database or identified in a subsequent CHMA heritage surveys that are located on access tracks or drill pads will be salvaged by the representative Aboriginal parties following grant of an AHIP permit. All Aboriginal artefacts on tracks and drill pads to be used for the planned rehabilitation works and diamond drilling will be salvaged before work commences.

Land use impacts

Provide a brief description of any impacts on land use including any major changes to land use and/or curtailment of other beneficial land uses.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Transportation impacts**Provide a brief description of any significant impacts on transportation.**

Additional traffic will occur on the local roads because employees and contractors will be travelling to and from Cooma to site each day.

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Negligible

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

The limited number of vehicles involved in the rehabilitation and drilling program will not cause significant impact to the local transport

system. Site personnel will mobilise to site in light vehicles in the morning and then return at the end of the 12 hour shift over a 2-3 week period. Vehicle movements will be limited to only that necessary.

Consistency with applicable local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans**Provide a brief description of any relevant local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans and whether the proposed activity is consistent with these.**

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Matters of national environmental significance**Is the activity likely to impact on any of the following matters of national environmental significance under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*? Select as relevant:**

N/A

Provide further details relating to any impacts on matters of national environmental significance.

Not applicable

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Cumulative impacts**Is the activity likely to result in cumulative environmental effects with other existing or likely future activities?**

No

Describe the impact.

Not applicable

Cumulative impacts

What is the likely level of any impacts?

Nil/Not applicable

Outline any proposed management controls and/or mitigation measures.

Not applicable

Environmental assessment conclusions

Having regard to the potential significance of the individual impacts of the proposed activity (as well as the aggregation of all the impacts of the activity) determine whether (select as relevant):

the activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment, including threatened species or ecological communities (or their habitats), or declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value/critical habitat. the activity is in respect of land that is, or is part of, a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value/critical habitat, but no other significant impacts are likely (if so, a species impact statement will be required – refer to section 3.1.2 of Expl

Provide any further details as relevant.

The activity is within an area with Plant Community Type PLT3341 which is listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community. However, no clearing is required because the activity will take place on existing access tracks and drill pads.

Corrective actions will be undertaken to minimise impact on flora and fauna as per the Lesryk Environmental recommendations and rehabilitation agreed with the NSW Regulator.

Attachment 4 – List of supporting documents

- APO0001743_Submission Report_14 May 2024 11:23am.pdf
 - APO0001743_Submission Report_16 May 2024 2:09pm.pdf
 - APO0001743_Submission Report_29 Apr 2024 2:16pm.pdf
 - APO0001743_Submission Report_8 Apr 2024 1:55pm.pdf
 - Appendix 11 Level 1 AIS Rocklodge.docx
 - Appendix 11 Level 1 AIS Rocklodge.pdf
 - Appendix 2 AHIP 5187 Bobundara Application.pdf
 - Appendix 6 RMP EL9155 Mar 2024.docx
 - Appendix 8 CTN Appointment-and-notification-of-operator-of-a-mine.pdf
 - Appendix 8 CTN Appointment-and-notification-of-operator-of-a-mine.zip
 - Appendix I Drill Traverse Photos.pdf
 - Biodiversity Assessment.JPG
 - Biodiversity Assessment.JPG
 - Biodiversity Assessment.JPG
 - Biodiversity Assessment.JPG
 - EL9155 Heritage Search.pdf
 - EL9155 Heritage Search.pdf
 - Figure 1 Location Plan EL9155.jpg
 - image005.png
 - Location plans.zip
 - RE: APO0001743 | APO0001743 - Rocklodge - Catalina Resources Ltd.eml